

Service Date: May 15, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of       ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets       )  
Purchase                                        ) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO MOVE ADMISSION OF CONSULTANTS' REPORTS**

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-421(10) (2013), the Public Service Commission (Commission) contracted with two consultants, Evergreen Economics (Evergreen) and The Essex Partnership (Essex) to assist in the evaluation of NorthWestern Energy's (NorthWestern's) application in this docket.

On March 27, 2014, Evergreen submitted to the Commission its *Final Assessment* of the PowerSimm model as a reasonable tool for use in NorthWestern's cost-benefit analysis of the proposed purchase compared to realistic, available alternatives.

On March 31, 2014, Essex submitted to the Commission the results of its review of NorthWestern's due diligence on the hydro assets in the form of a "checklist" that provided Essex's assessment of the docket information regarding the physical condition of the hydro facilities and NorthWestern's projections for capital expenditures and operation and maintenance costs. On April 2, 2014, Essex submitted to the Commission a memo that summarized its major findings. On April 4, 2014, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to Comment on PSC's Consultants' Reports.

The consultants' reports are available at the Commission's business offices and also may be viewed or downloaded on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Evergreen and Essex reports described above will be moved by Commission staff for admission into the record at the hearing in this proceeding.

Representatives from Evergreen and/or Essex will be made available for cross-examination at hearing upon the request of any party. Any such request must be filed in this docket no later than June 2, 2014.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman

BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner